



## The Deputy Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

September 6, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID K. GARMAN  
UNDER SECRETARY OF ENERGY

LINTON F. BROOKS  
UNDER SECRETARY FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY

RAYMOND L. ORBACH  
UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE

FROM: CLAY SELL *Clay Sell*  
SUBJECT: Department of Energy Support of Minority Educational  
Institutions

The Department of Energy plays a vital role in supporting institutions of higher education and has a long history of support for minority educational institutions (MEIs). Support includes research and development funding, fellowships, scholarships, internships, direct institutional support, infrastructure support, and private sector partnerships. In order for Americans to successfully compete in the world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we must continue to be the world's leader in research and development. To do so, we must utilize all of the resources available to us, including those at MEIs.

However, Department-wide support to MEIs has declined. In the last 10 years it has ranged from a high of 11.9 percent of the total dollars that DOE provided to all institutions of higher education in fiscal year (FY) 1997 to a low of 4.4 percent in FY 2004. The FY 2005 funding level was 6.4 percent and the increase over the FY 2004 level was due to a congressional earmark. Based on input received from program offices, it appears that FY 2006 funding will be significantly below FY 2005 levels. This is unacceptable.

The President has issued several Executive Orders directing that Federal agencies provide support for MEIs, specifically Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities. The Executive Orders direct Federal agencies to develop plans establishing clear goals for how each agency intends to increase the capability of such institutions to compete effectively for grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements, and to encourage such institutions to participate in Federal programs.



Similarly, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires the Secretary to give priority to activities that are designed to encourage students from underrepresented groups to pursue scientific and technical careers. The Act also mandates that the Secretary require the director of each National Laboratory, and may require the head of any "science facility," to increase the participation of historically Black colleges or universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, or tribal colleges in any activity that increases their educational institutions' capacity to train personnel in science or engineering. Section 1105 further directs the Secretary to report to Congress on the activities carried out under that section within two years.

It is essential for the Department to support MEIs. The President has made clear his commitment to, and the importance of, assistance to MEIs as part of the American Competitiveness Initiative. When the President recently spoke at Tuskegee University, he noted that he had pledged a 30-percent increase of Federal help to Historically Black Colleges and that this commitment had been met. Unfortunately, support for MEIs from the Department of Energy was below that commitment level.

I, therefore, direct each of you to appoint a point-of-contact in your Office who shall aggressively work with the Director of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity to increase the percentage of higher education funding that is received by MEIs. In cooperation with the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, you are directed to develop plans and take concrete actions to significantly increase this percentage. These actions should include targeting researchers and facilities at MEIs that will further the Department's mission. You are also directed to work with the Department's Chief Human Capital Officer to determine if the actions you will be taking at MEIs can be leveraged with the Department's overall human capital management strategy. Furthermore, you are to report the results that you have achieved in implementing this directive through the Consolidated Quarterly Performance Report.

Please provide Ms. Theresa Alvillar-Speake and Dr. Jeffrey T. H. Pon with the names of the points-of-contact within one week.

cc: Theresa A. Speake, ED-1  
Jeffrey T.H. Pon, HR-1